



## Conservation Successes – August 2004

### Wild & Scenic Lamprey River Land Conservation Celebrated

Activists and donors gather at Flag Hill

Lee, NH (August 25, 2004) - Members of the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) joined other river conservation partners at a celebration hosted by the owners of Flag Hill Winery. Flag Hill is the newest property, save one, to be added to the growing list of conserved lands in the Lamprey River corridor. The Flag Hill property is unusual in that both the land -- 106 acres and 2900' of river frontage -- and the façade of the historic farmhouse were protected. Funding for the project came from the LRAC, the federal Farmland Protection Program, the State Land & Community Heritage Investment Program, wetland mitigation funds, private fundraising by the Rockingham Land Trust, and a "bargain sale" by the owners, Frank and Linda Reinhold. The land trust will hold the conservation easement, the Town of Lee the historic facade easement. With LRAC support, the Town of Lee also closed this summer on 59 acres in the corridor containing a field, forested land, and vernal pools of particular, documented importance to Blandings turtles (a species listed as endangered in many states). For further information, please contact Margaret Watkins, Natural Resources Planner, at [margaret\\_watkins@nps.gov](mailto:margaret_watkins@nps.gov) or 603-226-3240.

### Lower Columbia River Water Trail Makes a Splash

Historic Water Route Debuts as a Modern Path of Discovery



Lower Columbia River Valley, OR and WA (June 2004)—Four days of community events (June 2 – 5) celebrated the official launching of the Lower Columbia River Water Trail, a 146-mile stretch of the Columbia River between Bonneville Dam and the Pacific Ocean. Activities included trail dedications by local community leaders, installation of trail signs, a barbeque, guided paddle tours, rides in Big Canoes, and dedication of a new launch site at Fort Clatsop National Memorial. The events drew over 300 people, and inspired more than 80 boats—130 paddlers—to get on the water. The trail

follows the river route of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery, and links directly with the newly proposed Northwest Discovery Water Trail that traces the expedition's route another 360 miles east to Canoe Camp, Idaho. Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program staff assisted the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership with the initial trail summit meeting, and worked with the Water Trail Committee on organizational development, brochure production, a draft plan framework, and public outreach. Their efforts brought together 30 river communities, 8 counties, and a myriad of state and federal agencies. An NPS Challenge Cost Share Grant is helping to launch the trail's web site this fall at [www.columbiawatertrail.org](http://www.columbiawatertrail.org). For more information, please contact Sue Abbott at [sue\\_abbott@nps.gov](mailto:sue_abbott@nps.gov) or 206-220-4116.

### Surplus Military Parcel Completes Park Ownership

San Antonio gains critical last parcel within regional park

San Antonio, TX (May 19, 2004) – The National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks program transferred, at no cost, a 0.36-acre former Army parcel to the City of San Antonio for public park and recreation use. The property is located at the entrance to the well-known Dwight D. Eisenhower Park and is critical for continued unrestricted public access to the park. This



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parcel, valued at \$10,000, was determined to be the only part of Eisenhower Park which was not under San Antonio's ownership. In 1973, 323 acres were conveyed under the Federal Lands to Parks Program to San Antonio to create Eisenhower Park. Since then, the park has been developed with group picnic areas, playgrounds, and an extensive hiking trail network over the outstanding Hill Country terrain. The US Army's Camp Bullis determined the property to be surplus to their needs and was pleased when the NPS requested assignment of it. The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, Atlanta, GA, at [bill\\_huie@nps.gov](mailto:bill_huie@nps.gov) or 404-562-3175.

## **The Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail is awarded National Register of Historic Places designation for its 20 railroad bridges**

Partners celebrate the inclusion of the trail's bridges in this prestigious national program



Layton to Key West, FL (August 2004) - The historic Flagler Railroad Bridges are comprised of 23 separate structures, three of which are already on the National Register of Historic Places. The northern most bridge is a few miles north of Layton, Florida and the southernmost bridge is in Key West, Florida. These bridges provide a critical link for the 106-mile Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail. The trail parallels US Highway 1 and allows cyclists and pedestrians to travel the length of the Florida Keys on a system of trail and bridges completely separate from the highway. This designation is an important

aspect of the project, as it will bring national recognition and prestige to the effort. The two main partners responsible for this designation were the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) and the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA). RTCA was able to provide OGT with technical assistance in drafting the lengthy application and the process of review with the State Historic Preservation Office. For more information, please contact: Stephen Bowes, RTCA, at [stephen\\_bowes@nps.gov](mailto:stephen_bowes@nps.gov) or 941-330-0069.

## **Bismarck Park District Acquisition**

Matching grant allows for new recreation initiatives

Bismarck, ND (August 2003) – The acquisition of 50 acres of land in northeast Bismarck will allow the Bismarck Park District to advance several recreation initiatives, including a driving range for Pebble Creek Golf Course, softball/baseball and soccer fields, playgrounds, and recreation trails. Steve Neu, Director of the Bismarck Park District, the main partner, stated, *"This acquisition was absolutely essential to our strategy for providing close to home recreation in the growing northeast sector of the city. This project will significantly add to our recreation offerings and opportunities in the Hay Creek Greenway. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has assisted with this opportunity to meet our recreational needs."* The National Park Service Stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund helped to make this acquisition possible through a \$160,373 matching grant. For more information, please contact Bob Anderson, Chief, NPS Recreation Grants Division, Midwest Region, at [Bob\\_L\\_Anderson@nps.gov](mailto:Bob_L_Anderson@nps.gov) or 402-661-1540.



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## National Center for Recreation and Conservation Staff Awards

(these awards are listed biannually)

Jim MacCartney, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program/Trout Unlimited staff, was recognized by the River Management Society with the *Outstanding Contribution to the River Management Society (RMS)* Award for his contributions to the RMS strategic plan, redevelopment of the RMS website, and leadership of the RMS Northeast Chapter.

Don Briggs, Superintendent, Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin for his work on the 2004 Potomac River Sojourn: An Accessible Wilderness.

The Chippewa River Hydropower Settlement Agreement, of which Angie Tornes, NPS RTCA/Hydropower program, was a part, received an *Outstanding Stewardship of America's River Award* at the National Hydropower Association's annual meeting in May in Washington, DC. The NHA has an excellent website describing the award: <http://beta.astrachan.com/osr/index.asp>

Don Briggs, Superintendent, Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Prince Georges County Planning Board, Prince Georges County, MD, for outstanding and dedicated service to the Bicycle and Trails Advisory Group.

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Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

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